

Phillips



# DIVISION OF FORESTRY NEWS LETTER

STATE DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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W. H. FAIRBANK - EDITOR

MARCH, 1947

## LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR ADVISES SLASH IN DIVISION'S 47-48 BUDGET.

Rolland Vandergrift, legislative auditor, in his recent voluminous report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee of the 57th Legislature, has advised that the Division of Forestry's 47-48 budget be materially reduced. From the proposed support budget of \$5,832, 593 he recommends a cut of \$1,500,076 made up of \$726,158 in salaries and wages, \$53,959 in operating expenses and \$719,959 in equipment. He also suggests a reduction of \$60,676 to outside counties, and a cut of \$34,419 to the U.S.F.S. for payment of their protection of private and State owned lands inside the National Forests of California. He advises that the proposed \$125,000 and \$25,000 to be spent for blister rust and insect control respectively are good investments and should be approved. Mr. Vandergrift's report suggests increasing the proposed sum of \$250,000 for emergency fire suppression to \$500,000. For the purchase of real property the 47-48 budget proposes an appropriation of \$43,550. This sum, according to the legislative auditor, should be reduced by \$6,228 to the sum of \$37,322. For the purchase of State Forests the Governor's budget includes \$2,000,000. Mr. Vandergrift has sanctioned this appropriation, but with the restriction that at least 75% of any future purchase by value shall comprise cutover land. With restrictions that construction other than for water, sanitary or other essential building needs, be first approved by the Department of Finance, and that appropriations be spent only for materials, and that the construction work be done by regular personnel of the Division of Forestry, the legislative auditor recommends that the requested \$130,481 for construction, improvements and repairs be approved. In effect, Mr. Vandergrift has indicated that there is no justification for the increase of man months of work from 9,318 to 11,470; that until results are demonstrated with existing personnel, no new positions or new year long positions be added to the Division; that because of his recommendation that no additional employees be added operating expenses should be reduced proportionately; that replacement equipment be allowed, but that no new equipment be sanctioned until such time as the Division has made a thorough study and investigation of a long range equipment acquisition program.

The Division of Forestry's hearing before the Joint Legislative Budget Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2. In view of the above-mentioned legislative auditor's report, it is expected that this hearing will be one of the most crucial in the Division's history. State Forester Nelson has indicated he is fully prepared to substantiate every item in the proposed 1947-48 budget, and that normal fire prevention, suppression and forest management activities will be greatly restricted if the Budget Committee favorably considers Vandergrift's proposed reductions.



#### STATE LEGISLATURE INACTIVE IN MARCH ON FORESTRY BILLS.

The 57th session of the California Legislature reconvened on March 19th after its constitutional recess, and immediately became involved with numerous bills introduced for the development of a sound highway construction program in California. To date there has been but little action on bills of interest to the Division of Forestry. The Division will have its initial hearing before the joint legislative budget committee on Wednesday, April 2nd. With the critical report of the legislative auditor in the hands of the Budget Committee as food for discussion, it is expected that this hearing will be one of the most crucial in the Division's history. Senate Bill 605 relative to the development of the Mountain Home Tract was approved by the Senate on March 20th by a vote of 29 - 0, and will be considered at a hearing of the Assembly Committee of Municipal and County Governments on April 9th. Senate Bill 480 was passed out of the Natural Resources committee of the Senate approved, and now goes to the floor of the Senate. Tentative hearings are set before the Senate committees, April 14th, on Senate bills 254, 735, 737, 738, 739, 740, 745 and 1512.

#### FOREST PRACTICE RULES FOR SOUTH SIERRA PINE DISTRICT APPROVED BY BOARD OF FORESTRY.

At its monthly meeting in Sacramento on March 6th, the Board of Forestry considered the proposed forest practice rules for the South Sierra Pine Forest Practice District. The rules were submitted to the Board upon indication that more than 2/3rds of the forest land owners in this district had by vote approved the rules. After due consideration and discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Forest Practice Rules, automatically giving them the full force of law within this District. Rules for three of the Forest Practice Districts have now been considered and approved by the Board of Forestry. Rules for the remaining District, the Coast Range Pine and Fir, will undoubtedly be ready for consideration within the next two months.

#### PROSPECT OF COORDINATED STATEWIDE FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM GOOD.

On the invitation of State Forester Nelson representatives from more than 40 county, state, federal, industrial and civic organizations gathered in San Francisco on March 4 to consider the problem of selling fire prevention to California's residents and visitors. State Forester Nelson indicated to the group that although all organizations had contributed to this program in the past, it was evident from the record of increasing fire occurrence in California that the time had come to coordinate and strengthen statewide prevention activities. The overall problem was introduced at the morning session by Department of Natural Resources Director Warren T. Hannum, State Forester Nelson, and Regional Forester Pat Thompson. The introductory statements were followed by discussions from Assistant Regional Forester Wallace Hutchinson and Dick Hammatt, former National Fire Prevention Campaign Director, on the history of fire prevention efforts in California, what they have lacked, and what the group could do to improve on them.

The afternoon session was opened to a round table discussion and many critical points of a statewide program were introduced. Actions of the afternoon culminated in a motion authorizing State Forester Nelson to appoint a small committee to meet in the near future to formulate a concrete program. Subsequent to the meeting Mr. Nelson has appointed a steering committee of 17 members who will meet on April 17 in Sacramento to organize statewide fire prevention plans.



## NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN MATERIAL TO BE DISTRIBUTED.

Posters, newspaper mats, bookmarkers, stickers and stamps will make up the fire prevention material to be distributed to the Districts in early April for the start of the 1947 educational fire prevention work. Smokey, the friendly bear, is again presented as central theme on one poster and is pictured having an awful time finding materials to build himself a new home. In view of the lumber shortage and the tremendous amount of construction now in progress, the basic theme is timely. This will be the fifth consecutive year the Division has had the opportunity to use prevention aids prepared by skilled professional advertisers whose business is selling. It would take several thousand dollars to duplicate these materials if the Division were to produce them locally. An effective promotion folder containing all items has again been arranged for and can be used advantageously in contacting possible users and cooperators.

This national advertising job to sell fire prevention and to reduce forest, range and woods fires <sup>started</sup> as a war measure, and has been so successfully and widely adapted to local users that the Association of State Foresters decided to continue it in peacetime. The Division used the material effectively in war years, but with expanded use of mountain areas, rapid urban development, and with many residents unfamiliar with the State's hazardous fire season conditions, State Forester Nelson has urged all Division personnel to take maximum advantage of this material and back the 1947 prevention program with every ounce of effort possible.

## ABOUT THE DIVISION.

### Editor's Note:

There are District and Ranger training schools being conducted in several of the districts. Undoubtedly many items of interest and significance to all Division employees have been or will be discussed at these meetings. I sincerely believe News Letter readers would appreciate news of this type. How about it?

## SIX 20-TON TRUCK TRACTORS PURCHASED BY DIVISION.

Six Federal Truck Tractors 6 x 4, model 604 with HB600 Cummins Diesel engines, three axle double reduction dual drive with 10:00 x 20 tires, previously used by the United States Army in conjunction with semi-trailers for the purpose of transporting 20-ton tanks, were purchased by the Division of Forestry March 20, 1947. The present road speed is 28 to 32 miles an hour to be changed by installation of new main and auxiliary transmissions with 15 forward speeds and three reverse speeds allowing maximum road speed of 44 miles an hour. The vehicles are to be thoroughly serviced with minor modifications and painting. We are endeavouring to expedite acquisition of 25 ton heavy duty trailers. The vehicles have been purchased on a replacement basis, and present allocations will permit assignment of one to each District, resulting in retirement of six of our present tractor transport fleet. Because of modification work and necessary transmission conversions, the vehicles will not be available for field service for approximately 60 days.

F.H. Dodson, Mechanics Foreman.



#### RANGERS START FIRE WARNING ARTICLES EARLY.

Timely was the release this month of fire prevention news through local papers in various parts of the State from the offices of several State Rangers. C.E. Lindley, Associate Ranger in Kings County, in a release to local papers in his area, has warned the people of the hazardous fire conditions that will soon exist in all county areas because of the limited amount of winter rainfall. He has suggested that trash burning and clearing around rural homes be done before the official fire season opens on April 15. After that date he states that State laws require that every person must have a burning permit. Like warnings have appeared in Southern California papers, and State Forester Nelson has expressed the hope that local messages will be released through the papers in all other parts of the State. He stated that the newspaper is the most effective prevention tool that the Division has at its disposal, and District Deputies and Rangers should use it constantly throughout the coming fire season.

#### BIGGS DEVELOPS BUTTE COUNTY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

The conservation program in Butte County started this year on March 4, up to and including March 14. We visited twentyone schools talking on the number of fires and damage, and the methods of preventing future fires; 1,591 students and teachers were in attendance at these schools. Larger schools in Oroville, Chico, Gridley and Biggs were also visited adding another 2,000 students.

In addition to the above, the U.S. Forest Service visited all of the schools east of the Feather River. The Diamond Match Lumber Company and the boys at Stirling City visited all of the schools in the North Butte area.

Arrangements are being made to talk to all of the Rotary Clubs, Rod and Gun Clubs, and some of the Granges in this county. This work will be carried on throughout the month of March and possibly into April, partly by this office and the office at Stirling City.

Our Essay Contest in the High Schools and Poster Contests in the Elementary Schools are attracting considerable attention. These contests close this week. In these contests there are 12 prizes for the Essay Contests and forty prizes in the Poster Contest. Prize money is being furnished by the Lumber industries and some of the Rod and Gun Clubs, and the Butte County Fish and Game Commission.

E.P. Biggs, State Forest Ranger.

#### DISTRICT ONE ACTIVE DURING CONSERVATION WEEK.

Conservation programs that included talks, panel discussions, motion pictures and demonstrations, were presented to more than 32 schools in District I counties during Conservation Week contacting more than 3,000 students. In cooperation with the U.S.F.S., the Soil Conservation Service, Division of Fish and Game and others, Ranger Miles Young presented programs of conservation to more than 15 public and parochial schools in Lake County, while Assistant Ranger Paul Furbash appeared before 8 schools in Mendocino County. Ranger Siler concentrated efforts in the Fortuna area of Humboldt County and did much basic fire prevention work with Boy Scout leaders of both Humboldt and Del Norte counties that had gathered at Pythian Park for their annual instructors school.

J.A. Glenn,  
Acting Asst. Deputy



#### POSTWAR SURVEYS PROGRESSING.

With the advent of spring weather our engineers are able to get into the remote places to a little better advantage, and are turning out surveys in connection with our postwar planning. To date these surveys have consisted mostly of telephone alignment and some reconnaissance surveys on postwar roads.

The power line from Monticello to Berryessa Mountain which will afford power for both radio repeater and lookout tower has been completed with the exception of placing the transformer, and has been accepted on behalf of the Division of Forestry by the Department of Public Works.

A new contract covering the line from Loma Prieta Mountain, about four miles in extent, is in the process of being constructed at the present time.

Five large compressor trucks, each containing considerable pneumatic tool equipment, have been purchased from the War Department to be used in the Division's youth training program on forestry work projects.

After being about one year in the making by the inmates of China prison, we are in receipt of the reducing and enlarging machine, which we hope to have set up in the Sacramento Office in the near future. This is an unusual piece of mechanism which was developed by the Division of Forestry to fill a long-felt need. The Division has acquired some additional engineering equipment, and as soon as transportation is available more engineers will be placed in the field on the postwar work.

C.M. Ennis,  
Associate Forestry Engineer

#### PLANE CRASHES -- DIVISION RESCUE WORK CONTINUES.

Orange County, with pardonable pride, feels that it is becoming rather adept as far as search and rescue operations are concerned.

On January 29, 1947, a F7F Tigercat, stationed at El Toro Marine Base in Orange County, crashed as a result of a blinding rain storm, into Los Pinos Peak, which is located in the southern portion of Orange County.

At the request of the Marine Base, after the wreckage had been sighted, State Ranger Joe Scherman had Assistant Ranger Allan Portigal fly over the scene to spot the locality on a topographic map. After this had been accomplished a Marine Corps crash crew was led to the scene of the crash by Associate Ranger Elmer Osterman and Assistant Ranger Portigal; the bodies of the two crash victims were brought out that same evening.

On the evening of March 6th, a civilian plane piloted by Mr. Charles E. McNeil of Balboa was reported crashed in the Trabuco area. A pilot of a civilian search plane had spotted the wreckage, incorrectly reported the location as being on the side of Santiago Peak, and this area was searched the night of the 6th by Osterman and Portigal. After failing to find the wreckage by daybreak of March 7th, a request was radioed for a search plane from the El Toro Marine Base. This plane discovered the wreckage and radioed its location which by coincidence was within fifty yards of the wreckage of the Marine plane which crashed in January. Ground search parties proceeded immediately to the scene and found the plane almost intact, but the pilot was nowhere to be found. The ground search party led by Ranger



Scherman checked tracks until darkness fell. Plans were made to continue the search at daylight inasmuch as the area was very steep and almost inaccessible, and it was practically impossible to follow tracks at night. Ranger Scherman requested that the Orange County Sheriff's Office send posses up the canyons leading into the crash. At dawn of the 8th, Ranger Scherman led a group of five men from the wreckage on Los Pinos Peak down Bell Canyon following faint tracks of the Pilot McNeil. After following the tracks a short distance to definitely ascertain that they were leading into Bell Canyon, a "Walkie-Talkie" radio message was radioed to a radio car on top of the ridge that requested that the Sheriff's posse starting up Bell Canyon continue until they contacted Scherman's party. After travelling approximately ten miles over steep rocky canyon bottom, water falls, heavy brush, and wading through water up to the knees at times, Mr. McNeil was found completely exhausted, late in the afternoon. Mr. McNeil was given first aid treatment for shock and placed on an improvised stretcher. Although approximately two miles from a road, the terrain was so rugged that it took approximately four hours to carry him to a waiting ambulance. Mr. McNeil has stated that if it were not for the tracking ability of Ranger Scherman and untiring efforts in pressing the search, that he would not be alive today. He had almost given up due to the fact that his feet were cut and swollen from walking on rocks and in water in low sandals, and he was utterly exhausted and had not moved for twentyfour hours, when found.

This rescue operation was successful because of the fine cooperation received from the State Division of Forestry of Riverside County; the U.S.F.S., Cleveland National Forest, and the Orange County Sheriff's Office, during the rescue operations. Lack of space prevents the listing of the names of the personnel who aided in the search, however, credit is due them for the assistance they rendered.

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The feasibility of converting surplus army trucks into fire trucks has more than proved itself, we feel, in Orange County. The County Board of Supervisors last year purchased six 6 x 6 army trucks which were converted into tankers with 500 GPM auxiliary units and other necessary equipment making them #1 fire trucks in accordance with National Board of Fire Underwriters' standards. The fact that the pumping unit and most of the equipment were OCD surplus kept the overall cost to a minimum. At the present time these trucks are stationed at various locations primarily for structural protection within communities. Their primary purpose is for valley protection; however, they have been used on brush and forest fires which occurred during the latter part of the 1946 fire season. These trucks, we feel, were the main factor in extinguishment of the fires since, in the majority of cases the 2 wheel conventional trucks were unable to negotiate the steep terrain.

Associate Ranger Osterman and  
Assistant Ranger Portigal

#### RANGER JOE SCHERMAN PRAISED FOR RESCUE WORK.

J.K. Munhall, District Ranger on the Cleveland National Forest has, in a letter to the State Forester this month expressed his sincere praise for the skill and ability of Ranger Joe Scherman in saving the life of a pilot of a private plane that crashed near Los Pinos Peak in Orange County. Excerpts from District Ranger Munhall's letter follow:



"I am sure in my own mind, if your skill and ability had not been applied in the search, the pilot would still be in Bell Canyon, and would by now have died of exposure. After reading some of the accounts in the newspapers and running them all alongside the facts, it appears to me that an injustice has been done you and the rest of the men in your search party. I cannot help but feel strongly in regard to this apparent disregard of facts, and I am going to do all I can to see that credit is given where credit is due."

Evidently the newspapers carried false reports of the rescue work and Ranger Munhall has made a sincere attempt to make the true facts of the case known and to place credit where credit is due.

#### SOUTHERN PACIFIC APPRECIATIVE OF MONTEREY COUNTY COOPERATION.

Indicative of cooperative railroad right of way clearing that can be arranged with the Railroad companies is Ranger Austin's work with the Southern Pacific Company in Monterey County. Austin and the Company will this year be repeating right of way clearance along Company line between Kings City and the Monterey County boundary for the fourth consecutive year. Fire occurrence was much reduced during the first two years of the cooperative program, and 1946 records indicate an absence of fires along the treated stretch. J.J. Jordan, superintendent of the Company, in a letter to State Forester Nelson concerning this hazard reduction program has said; "Work of constructing the fire breaks along the route has been done in cooperation with adjoining land owners and the Division of Forestry. We consider the program effective and of much benefit to the Company and to adjacent land owners. The Company would like to express its appreciation for the efforts of the Division."

#### "HUMBOLDT UNIT EXPRESSIONS".

The Humboldt Unit looks with alarm and preliminary caution to the forthcoming fire season due to the fact this area is 13" more or less below its normal rainfall to date. If we are able to fill the personnel quota that is allotted to us for our eleven suppression stations and five lookout stations early enough to conduct the training program that is now in the making, we will have hopes of overcoming the precipitation deficiency that undoubtedly will confront us at the beginning of the 1947 season. We were fortunate during the 1946 fire season inasmuch as the humidity throughout our unit stayed at a relatively high level.

Our potential hazards are increasing rapidly due to the fact that the sawmills supported by the timber in our unit now exceed 125. Throughout the 1946 fire season the mill owners and operators as a whole were very cooperative. Our inspections and contacts with these men show an increasing amount of cooperation for the 1947 season. We believe the constant contact between the Division of Forestry personnel and the land and timber management is a valuable factor for all concerned. The increasing fire consciousness of the public throughout our unit is definitely noticeable. We anticipate with pleasure the receiving of superior type of equipment to that we have had in the past years. We were very interested in Mr. Winters' article in the February issue of the News Letter.



The installation of two 90' aerial poles at Humboldt Unit Headquarters should largely increase our radio reception and transmission. We hope to complete this installation in the very near future. Radio Technician Mr. Doak was a recent visitor to our headquarters. The capability of Technician Doak is obvious in the installation of our new 500 watt unit.

Mr. Fowler of Sacramento was also a welcome visitor to our headquarters recently. Recent surveys show that there are numerous abandoned and private roads throughout the unit that could be made advantageous to us without much expense involved.

The personnel of the unit erected three angle iron buildings during the 1946 fire season. Two more are in storage here and are to be erected during the early part of the 1947 season. These buildings are not a permanent fixture but are far superior to rag camps.

Four of our men recently returned from assisting in moving building materials to Napa County, which were salvaged from Sharp's Park. Our foremen expressed much satisfaction in working with Assistant Ranger Kessler of Mendocino County on this project.

We welcome to our fleet of motorized equipment the return of our heavy duty transport which has been hospitalized for the past eight months. Although this piece of equipment does not fulfill our requirements, it will prevent our calling on our cooperative neighbours in Mendocino County to move our bulldozer each time we wish to use it.

Assistant Ranger Dunwoody and  
Foreman Squires.

#### LASSEN COUNTY CONSERVATION WEEK ACTIVITIES.

Several Meetings were held, attended by Lassen and Plumas National Forest officials, county school officials, the press, lumber officials, local government officials, and local influential citizens. A chairman was appointed to head the conservation program in the Westwood area, Susanville area, and Big Valley district. Schedules and appointive dates were made, and certain individuals assigned to arrange the details for school contacts, window displays, speaking engagements, moving pictures, newspaper writeups and essay contests.

Since the entire program was a correlation of effort between the U.S. Forest Service, other cooperators, and the Division of Forestry, no one organization can or should assume credit for the overall results. Assistant Ranger Hufford was appointed chairman in the Big Valley area.

We were successful in securing outside speakers for many of our engagements. Attorneys, logging operators, forestry school instructors and students, farm advisor's staff, and school teachers assisted in handling individual speaking engagements. The Lassen Advocate and Big Valley Gazette, newspapers, contributed ample space for favorable publicity. Two Main Street stores contributed full window space for large window displays. The local Boy Scouts arranged one of these window displays, and the Lassen Junior College School of Forestry arranged the other. The local theatre ran a short 35 mm. film on Conservation for three days.



Our overall accomplishments were as follows: Every school in the county excepting three remote, hard-to-reach small ones was given a program. Most service clubs and lodges in the county were contacted. Essay contests were held in some school rooms. At least four articles were printed in the Susanville and Bieber papers. Boy Scout troops and Camp Fire Girls were contacted, and some participated in our program. Conservation posters were displayed at Westwood, Susanville and Bieber.

Through direct and indirect contact it would be safe to estimate between 10,000 and 12,000 people in Lassen County were aware of our Conservation Week work and its aims.

Wm. F. Mann - State Forest Ranger

#### DIVISION OF FORESTRY POSSIBLES ?

Chief Deputy Clar recently talked to about forty men in the U.C. graduating class in forestry at Berkeley. Interest was keen in the possibility of Assistant Ranger and Assistant Technician positions with the Division of Forestry.

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#### CALIFORNIA RURAL FIRE ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING -- RANGER CAMPBELL NEW PRESIDENT.

The California Rural Fire Association held its annual meeting in Fresno March 28, 29 and 30 in the Hotel Californian. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the problems and standards of rural fire protection. H.P. Bowhay presided as chairman, supported by old Wheelhorse Ossie Ball as secretary. There was a lively discussion following the reports of the various committees on legislation, law enforcement, rural fire laws, communications, trainings, ratings and rural protection standards by the Board of Fire Underwriters in cooperation with other fire protection agencies.

Saturday, March 29, the rural fire departments, oil companies and equipment representatives staged a fire equipment display and fire suppression demonstrations at the Fresno County Fair grounds. This was a very interesting demonstration on the control of oil, gasoline and butane fires with chemicals and water. Many types of new fog nozzles, both high and low pressure, were displayed in actual demonstration by the various equipment companies.

The business meeting and the equipment displays and demonstrations were well attended by firemen and foresters throughout northern and central California. At the conclusion of the meeting a report was heard from the nominating committee, and Ranger Charles Campbell of Mendocino County was elected President and Ben Cooper of Kern County was elected Secretary.

Fred N. Dunow - Deputy State Forester.

#### WILL 20% HELP YOU?

Ferrari-Nicolaus, Dispensing Opticians, with offices in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Sacramento, Fresno, and Palo Alto, have announced that they will allow a 20% discount on their services to all State employees who are paid C.S.E.A. members. To obtain this discount the C.S.E.A. member must obtain a purchase order from his group chairman and present this purchase order to Ferrari-Nicolaus.



All forestry employees who are paid C.S.E.A. members and belong to Chapter 2 of the Association should contact Elaine J. James, Room 415, State Office Building No. 1, Local 2873, for a purchase order. Members of other chapters should contact their Group chairman.

Elaine J. James,  
Chairman, Group 7, Chapter 2.

#### HAVE YOU READ?

"Jackson Forest" by Technician Arnold F. Wallen in the March edition of "American Forests." Wallen tells of the past activities and some of the romantic history of the 46,878 acre State Forest in Mendocino County, recently purchased by the Division of Forestry.

"Wet Water for Fighting Fires" - in the March Reader's Digest.

"The History of the Public Domain" by O.C. Williams in February's "California Cattleman."

"Tips for Campers", 25 page illustrated pocket size booklet available on request from Office of Information and Education, Region 5, U.S. Forest Service.

"More Timber", a 36 page booklet summarizing the relationship between Pacific Northwest and National Forest programs, and presents an industry program for placing the Douglas Fir region under sustained yield. Available from West Coast Lumbermen's Association, Portland, Oregon.

#### DID YOU KNOW ?

##### CALIFORNIA'S HARDWOODS.

California hardwoods are at last occupying their rightful place in our highly-publicized California sun.

Stimulated by a cooperative effort by the Division of Forestry and the California Forest and Range Experiment Station, promising results in hardwood seasoning have been obtained.

A year ago Jack Reveal, Farm Forester in Sonoma County, assisted by personnel of the Division of Forestry, cut and shipped fortysix hardwood logs to the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin. Tan oak, madrone, chinquapin and laurel logs were sent for experimental work. Tests indicate that all of these woods can be made into plywood. Sample pieces show good grain and texture and a distinctive "California" look. Experimental kiln drying schedules have been developed for tan oak, madrone and laurel, tests indicating that these woods may be dried successfully. Emphasis was placed on proper control of moisture and temperature in the dry kiln.

The plywood industry is now looking with interest at our California hardwoods. A continuous supply of well-manufactured hardwood lumber and plywood will interest also our expanding furniture industry.

Hardwood flooring is now being produced from Valley White Oak (*Quercus lobata*). The lumber, dried in converted prune driers, is resawed into 3/8" x 2" random length hardwood flooring.



Proper seasoning has always been the biggest "bug-a-boo" in the hardwood picture. With new information available on hardwood seasoning the problem may be licked. Let's hope it has and that California has a worthwhile new industry.

Arnold F. Wallen - Forest Technician.

BROAD FOREST PROGRAM PROPOSED BY AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

A broad program for the development of forest lands in the United States to meet continuing high-level requirements for wood and wood products has been proposed by the American Forestry Association. The proposals climaxed a nation-wide survey of the effects of war drains on the country's timberlands and their capacity to meet postwar needs.

Keynoting the need for greatly increased cooperative action by state, federal, and private interests, the association's program, submitted to its membership for approval, calls for greater emphasis on state, and private responsibility in the handling of forest producing lands, including state action to curb destructive timber cutting; a record-breaking tree planting project of 20 million acres during the next twelve years; greatly intensified action to bring all forest lands under protection from fire; and a vigorous nationwide expansion of forestry education, including advice and technical assistance to the four million owners of small forest properties who control 57 percent of the commercial forest land of the United States.

America's need for wood and other forest products and services will remain at a high level, the association stated, adding that the nation also must be prepared to resume substantial foreign trade. "Need for a far-reaching program of action to meet this situation is emphasized in the fact-finding appraisal of forest conditions, and by the recent American Forest Congress held in Washington, D.C. "These brought out that although considerable progress has been made in advancing the practice of forestry, nothing short of a major program, undertaken by all agencies concerned, will solve the country's forestry problems."

In dealing with the problems of small forest owners, expansions of advice and technical assistance with vigorous federal leadership is proposed. The basis for cooperative action would include conduct of educational activities by state extension services, with state departments of forestry direction action programs and services on the ground under federal and state agreements defining the limits of free public aid. Forest owners and industries would contribute to this effort by instructing woods operators and raw material suppliers in good forest practices.

Other measures designed to encourage the practice of better forestry on private lands are state action to adjust tax burdens and the extension of long-term forest credit and insurance facilities.

The proposals call for rapid extension of intensive forest management on all lands devoted to timber production; increased assistance to owners of small forest industries; and stronger measures for the eradication or control of forest insects and diseases. Annual timber growth can be doubled if the forests are placed under intensive management, it was stated, and tree insects and diseases now exact a toll from sawtimber resources greater than that of fire.



To determine the best relationship between federal, state and private ownership of forest lands, a state-by-state study of forest ownership is proposed, as is the designation of representative committees in each state to undertake planning and agreement on future public acquisition.

Other proposals include early action by Congress to provide yearly payment to states on a reasonable and uniform basis in lieu of taxes on federal forest lands; more and better coordinated research in timber harvesting and growing, and greater efforts toward getting the results of research into practice; the reduction of woodland depletion by livestock in agricultural areas; and continuation of the nationwide forest survey by the U.S. Forest Service.

Interpreting the forest resource appraisal conducted by the association as a basis for the proposals, it was pointed out that although the forests of the nation still contain 1,600 billion board feet of sawtimber, the yearly drain is estimated at 54 billion board feet. This is only partly offset by an annual sawtimber growth of 36 billion feet. Present growing stocks are deficient in both quantity and quality. Cutting without regard to future production continues on vast areas of forest land.

The association stated that its 30 point program is essentially a statement of policies. These, it asserts, must be put into effect by public, legislative, and administrative actions and by the supporting activities of industries, civic-minded organizations, and public spirited citizens in all fields of American life. An American Forestry Council is proposed to bring such groups together for concerted action in forwarding the program.

March "Forestry News"

#### FORESTER LYLE WATTS REPORTS.

In his 1946 annual report to the Secretary, the Chief Forester of the U.S. Forestry Service stressed (1) bring organized fire protection to 136 million acres of nonfederal forest land which is still without protection of any kind, and vastly increase insect and disease investigation work and control on all forested land (2) plant millions of acres of both private and public idle forest land to trees (3) reduce waste by eliminating destructive forest practices and low utilization of products (4) and adopt good forest management on a much wider scale. That, he believes, will make it possible eventually to have "Timber Abundance" in answer to the question he uses as the title of his report "Timber Shortage or Timber Abundance?"

The following excerpts from the report point up the problems and the tremendously challenging job which lies ahead for professional foresters:

"Timber shortage is general throughout most of the civilized world. The Technical Committees on Forestry of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reports that - 'In the face of .....rapidly multiplying uses for wood which create ever mounting wood needs, the world is confronted by the inescapable fact that the forests - sole source of wood - are steadily diminishing'."

The annual drain of 13.7 billion cubic feet of all forest products is very nearly balanced by an annual growth of 13.4 billion cubic feet, "but in trees of sawtimber size - and the bulk of our forest industry depends on saw timber - drain is at the rate of 53.9 billion board feet,



while annual growth is only 35.3 billion board feet. Saw-timber drain thus exceeds growth by more than 50 percent."

"You can't grow trees of saw-timber size overnight."

"Leaders in the forest industries realize that the timber supplies they will need to stay in business will have to be grown." He gave full credit to the splendid work being done by industry, especially big industry, its tree-farm and trees-for-tomorrow programs, and he encourages them to go much farther. But he looks with alarm on the vast acreage of commercial timberland owned by 400,000 private owners in small tracts where only 7 percent of the holdings is being cut properly and 64 percent actually being cut destructively.

"For several years, the Forest Service has advocated that the public exercise some measure of control over timber cutting and related practices. Some commentators have seen in this proposal a move toward extreme regimentation, socialism, or dictatorship. Actually, the proposal visualizes only those requirements sufficient to prevent the use of destructive cutting practices and to make sure that forest land will be kept in condition to continue growing reasonably full crops of timber. Such regulation should encourage and stimulate progress toward sustained-yield forest management.

"The Forest Service has suggested that the regulatory program might well be administered by the individual states, with federal financial assistance; and in line with basic standards set up by national legislation. There should be provision for direct federal administration, however, in the states which fail to take appropriate action within a reasonable time." He feels that those in forest-industry who are practicing good forestry have nothing to fear, and that the sole purpose is to help, not hinder, those who are not.

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#### SAWTIMBER FOR THE FUTURE.

Doubling the growth of sawtimber within 75 years and increasing the growth of all types by one half was advocated by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson after study of reports recently transmitted by the Chief Forester of the United States. To assure an adequate supply of timber products, full employment in the timber industries, provide for national security, develop new uses for wood, and reestablish our foreign export trade, were the reasons stressed by the Secretary. He asked that the job of growing more timber be started now.

The facts and figures on which the appeal was made are contained in three reports made on the results of the Forest Service reappraisal study. One deals with gauging the timber resources, another with potential requirements for timber products, and the third with the management status of forest lands.

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## TIMBER VOLUME BY PHOTOGRAPHS.

Methods used by the air forces for analyzing aerial photographs of enemy terrain will shortly be applied to surveying timberlands in a project at the Yale University School of Forestry.

Photographs of woodlands will be made by a commercial flying company to supply materials for the study, which will be carried on by Professors Walter H. Meyer and Eugene V. Zumwalt. They will be assisted by a group of students, most of whom were trained in aerial photography and photo-analysis in the armed forces during the war.

The purpose of the project is to develop new methods of estimating the volume of timbers in tracts of land. Such work is now largely done by "timber cruisers", skilled estimators who walk through the forests and calculate the kind, quality and amount of timber. It is hoped that new techniques of photo-analysis will permit more rapid surveys of timberlands than are now possible.

Aerial surveys, in the opinion of Professors Meyer and Zumwalt, have certain other advantages over the work of "timber cruisers". The photographs can be used for constructing accurate contour maps to be cut over. These help in locating swamplands, which are difficult to work, and aid in planning and laying out roads for timber operations.

The pictures will be taken at different times of the year, at different heights, and with varying photographic filters.

Some photographs will be taken in color. New infra-red photographic techniques developed by the Army and Navy in the war will be utilized. The whole aim of the different photographic techniques is to develop textures and shadings in the photographs which would be useful in determining the density of the tree growth, and possibly the kinds of trees.

The investigators will study the results with special measuring devices and stereoscopic optical equipment. These tools permit measurement of the height of individual trees and the width of their foliage, notwithstanding the altitude from which the photographs are taken.

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## AMERICA USES LOT OF WOOD.

It is estimated that since 1800 the United States has taken enough lumber from its forests to build 191 million wooden houses - six times its present number - according to the New York State College of Forestry. Of the total supply of wood consumed in the world the United States uses more than half the lumber and paper, and two-fifths of all forms of wood. Although her forest area is only 9.1 percent of the total for the world, the annual cut from her forests for all purposes is between 60 and 70 billion board feet.

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